

NSC BRIEFING

20 July 1960

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

- I. Dominican dissidents continue to increase in numbers and desperation.
- A. Several shot within 4 days early this month while seeking asylum in Brazilian, Mexican, Nicaraguan embassies.
1. One killed at Brazilian embassy was former secret police official who earlier sought protection of US Embassy. His wife and small children wounded.
 2. Brazilians outraged, but Brazilian government unlikely to bow to congressional pressure for break in relations at this time.
- B. Dissidents, and apparently Catholic hierarchy, have suspended efforts to oust dictator while awaiting OAS action, but the terrorism and effects of foreign pressures may force opposition's hand sooner.
1. Armed forces likely to pass over to opposition if they conclude Trujillo doomed by concerted hemisphere pressure.
 2. Implications of Dominican omission from reallocated Cuban sugar quota likely to have strong effect.
 3. AFL-CIO pressing for boycott of shipping to and from the Dominican Republic.
 4. Venezuelan pressure has resulted in refusal normal petroleum suppliers in Netherlands West Indies to send oil to Dominican Republic. Alternative sources will be more expensive.
- II. Duvalier regime in Haiti drifting steadily to left.
- A. President, apparently not fully recovered from May 1959 heart attack, is delegating authority to clique of leftist advisers.

~~SECRET~~

1. Among most influential are brothers Paul and Jules Blanchet, probable Communists.
- B. Leftist influence apparently responsible for equivocal Haitian stand on Castro and for Duvalier's recent strong attack on US aid as inadequate and inconsistent with Haitian sovereignty.
 1. Duvalier's use of aid programs for political patronage has already seriously crippled these much needed projects.
- C. Clement Barbot, presidential secretary and secret police chief, made strong bid to ambassador for US support against Duvalier a few hours before Barbot's arrest on 15 July.
 1. Barbot claimed army support against Duvalier.
 2. Army remains most cohesive force friendly to US, probably shares Barbot's concern, but probably unwilling to act against President at this time.

~~SECRET~~